[English]

Doubling and Gauge Conversion of Railway Lines

1527. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of doubling of Railway lines and Gauge conversion in the Eastern Railway Zone is not upto the target level during the current plan-period;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to improve upon the situation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The progress of doubling work is slow due to court cases and delay in removal of encroachments. There are no Gauge Conversion works on Eastern Railway.

(c) The Railway has been asked to ensure speedy progress by suitable follow up and monitoring.

[Translation]

Halt at Firozabad

1528. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand over the years for providing a halt of Delhi-Puri (Orissa) Neelachal Express at Firozabad Station;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not providing a halt there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The feasibility of provision of stoppage of 8475/8476 Neelachal Express at Firozabad has been examined but not found justified at present.

[English]

Collision of Train

1529. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Gorakhpur-Gonda passenger train rammed into a stationary goods train at Domingarh railway station on Gorakhpur-Lucknow section of the North-Eastern Railway on 18 April, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons killed and injured therein;

(c) the main reasons for the train collision; and

(d) the corrective measures taken/contemplated to avoid derailments/collision of trains and to strengthen the safety standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. 583 UP Gorakhpur-Gonda Passenger collided head-on with stationary Dr. Gorakhpur Cantt. Special goods train at Domingarh station of North Eastern Railway on 18.4.96. In this accident, 54 persons were killed, 47 sustained grievous injuries and 37 suffered minor injuries.

(c) Collisions occur mainly due to lapses on the part of train drivers and/or station staff.

(d) The following measures have been taken to prevent derailments/collisions of trains :-

1. In order to prevent collisions at stations, track circuiting of the run through lines has been accelerated.
2. Signalling circuitry is being changed to prevent home signal being lowered till the starter and the advance starter lowered for an earlier train have been put back to 'ON' position.
3. Auxiliary Warning System for giving advance warning about signals at danger to driver of the running train and stopping the train if the driver does not respond within the pre-determined time interval has already been commissioned on Bombay suburban sections.
4. Upgradation of track structure has been done by using heavier rails and concrete sleepers.
5. The track is maintained by Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines. Track is also now being laid with track renewal trains and portal cranes.
6. For monitoring of the track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometres are being progressively used.
7. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised. Four-wheeler wagons are being progressively phased out. Better type CASNUB bogies are being used on wagons.
8. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axle, all ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for timely detection of cases of flaws developing in the axles.
9. Surprise and night inspection by Officers and Inspectors has been intensified.
10. Performance of drivers, guards and station staff connected with train operation are monitored regularly and deficient staff are subjected to modernised training. Drivers are being trained on simulators.